
Kathleen Donnelly



Director, Support Equipment and Aircraft Launch and Recovery Equipment Department (AIR-4.8) Naval Air Systems Command

Ms. Kathleen Donnelly currently serves as the Director of the Support Equipment (SE) and Aircraft Launch and Recovery Equipment (ALRE) Department of the Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR) located in Lakehurst, New Jersey. Ms. Donnelly manages over 1,300 civilian and military professionals providing technical direction and guidance for the planning and execution of programs involving the research, design, acquisition, development, maintenance and operation of Aircraft Platform Interface equipment critical to Naval Aviation.

She entered the Senior Executive Service in March 2008. With over 24 years of devoted service, Ms. Donnelly began her career as a Cryogenics Support Equipment Engineer at the Naval Air Engineering Center in 1984 working her way up to Program Management Team Leader within the Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division. In that capacity, Ms. Donnelly served as the Team Leader for Support Equipment, Advanced Technology Launcher, Fire Fighting and Arresting Gear; managing and executing these programs from concept exploration through in-service fielding/support.

Promoted to a supervisory engineering position in March 1998, Ms. Donnelly planned and managed assets including personnel, processes and facilities in the Visual Landing Aids In-Service Engineering Branch incorporating customer needs as well as corporate goals.

This led to her being selected as the Launcher In-Service Integrated Product Team Leader for Program Management in August 2001 being responsible for all facets of planning the life cycle management, development and acquisition of launcher equipment.

In May 2004, Ms. Donnelly was assigned as the ALRE In-Service Deputy Program Manager, providing on-site technical expertise to support the installation, operation, overhaul and certification of 2,000 deployed ALRE systems world-wide. She was also assigned as the ALRE Flight Safe Program Manager. Selected as the Launcher Deputy Program Manager PMA-251 for NAVAIR in March 2006, Ms. Donnelly led the efforts of the NAVAIR-wide launcher integrated program cross-competency team, including the planning and oversight of life cycle management, development and acquisition of the next generation launcher equipment.

Ms. Donnelly earned her bachelor of chemical engineering degree from Villanova University and a master's of business administration degree from Monmouth University. Further academic accomplishments include the Defense Systems Management College's Advanced Systems Planning, Research, Development/Engineering and Advanced Program Management courses along with graduating from the Senior Executive Management Development Program in 1998.

Ms. Donnelly was a recipient of the NAVAIR Commander's Award in 2007, Honorable Mention for Diversity Life Cycle Sustainment Process Team and recipient of the Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division's (NAWCAD) Commander's Award for the Repeatable Release Holdback Bar Team in 2006. She has been a member of the Acquisition Professional Community since 1996.